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Niagara Emerald Shiner Study, NY Economy Act

Project Location: Niagara and Erie Counties, NY, in the Niagara River Area of Concern (AOC)

Description of Problem: The Emerald Shiner, a prey fish and critical component of the Niagara River and Lake Erie food web, as codified in the *Fish Community Objectives* developed by NYSDEC, is obstructed from progression due to impassable water velocities and hastened by hardened shorelines in the Niagara River. The *Fish Community Objectives* define delisting targets for the Degradation of Fish Populations Beneficial Use Impairment for the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan.

Project Description: This project will entail close collaboration with the US Environmental Protection Agency under authority of the Economy Act, as well as the City of Buffalo to implement repairs and preparation to the existing seawall necessary to install baffles. The baffles are designed to moderate flow velocity and allow for fish passage for the Emerald Shiner and other species. Following construction project efficacy will be monitored. Implementation of this project builds on research conducted in a prior study phase.



Partners and Collaboration: US Environmental Protection Agency, City of Buffalo

Project Benefits: The project would cover the northernmost (downstream) 78-ft of the 750-ft seawall at Broderick Park, NY along the western shore of the Niagara River. If the structure is found to facilitate successful passage of the Emerald Shiner, then a supplemental project could target the remaining seawall. Improved passage of the Emerald Shiner will help meet *Fish Community Objectives* and address the Degradation of Fish Populations Beneficial Use Impairment in the Niagara River Area of Concern.

Increased connectivity for Shiners, especially between Niagara River and Lake Erie, is an opportunity of technical, institutional, and bi-national significance.

Project Status: Construction is underway following award to Bidco Marine Group in June 2021 for \$1.6M. Construction is anticipated to last through January 2022, at which point the monitoring phase will begin for one spring and fall season following.

Measure of Progress	Project Output
1.1.1 Area of Concern where all management actions necessary for delisting have been implemented	1
1.1.2 Area of Concern Beneficial Use Impairments Removed	1



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Niagara River at Broderick Park



Artistic Rendering of implemented project

Estimated Project Costs		Project Milestones	
Federal	\$1,800,000	Plans and Specifications	MAR 2021 (A)
Total	\$1,800,000	Contract Award	JUN 2021 (A)
		Physical Completion	JAN 2022
		Monitoring Complete	JAN 2023
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